



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street
Sacramento
California 95814

BETTY T. YEE
Acting Member, BOE
First District

RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHESBRO AND YEE ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT
ON TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE IN EUREKA REGION**

State Senator Wesley Chesbro (D-Arcata) and Acting Board of Equalization (BOE) Member Betty T. Yee today announced an agreement allowing the BOE to continue personally assisting taxpayers in the Eureka region.

Beginning on July 1, Senator Chesbro will provide workspace in his Eureka office for BOE staff several days a month. Facing budget constraints, the BOE had decided earlier this year to close its Eureka office in June. The agreement with Senator Chesbro allows the BOE to maintain a personal presence during heavy filing periods, when the need for taxpayer assistance is greatest.

"Access is a critical issue on the North Coast and I do not believe people should have to travel to Sonoma County to have their tax issues addressed," said Chesbro. "For that reason, I am happy to open my office to ensure that the people of Humboldt can continue to have access locally to the Board of Equalization."

"This agreement allows us to continue offering excellent customer service," said Yee. "We are committed to addressing the needs of this community."

While the agreement doesn't establish a full-time BOE office in Eureka, it will accommodate any in-person activity necessary for taxpayer assistance. There, taxpayers can receive assistance filling out sales and use tax returns, drop off payments, or find help in applying for a seller's permit. The BOE maintains 14 district offices throughout the state. The Santa Rosa District Office serves the Eureka area.

Taxpayers can also conduct business with the BOE online at www.boe.ca.gov, by mail, or its toll-free number at 800-400-7115.

Senator Chesbro's Eureka office is located at 710 E Street, Suite 150, just three blocks from the BOE office's current location.

The dates that BOE staff will be available in the Senator's office will be posted on the BOE's website and sent to Eureka area taxpayers in June.

District offices principally serve to assist and educate small business owners on tax rules and regulations.

Acting Board Member Betty T. Yee, of San Francisco, assumed the First District seat on the Board of Equalization in 2004.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects nearly \$42 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and also plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property tax.

Other Board Members include Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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